

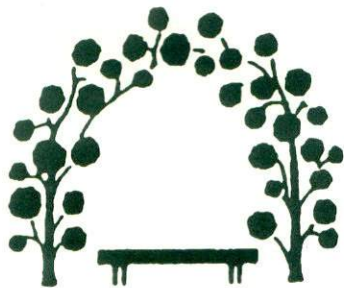
2-2001

## South Union Messenger (February 2001)

Kentucky Library Research Collections

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# South Union Messenger

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*Newsletter for the Friends of the Shaker Museum at South Union, Kentucky*

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## *Thank You for Your Contributions*

Joseph A. & Dorothy A. Jones  
in honor of Tommy Hines  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Robert Martin, International Paper  
Hopkinsville, Kentucky  
Operating Support

Sandra Pruitt Miller  
Greer, South Carolina  
Operating Support

John Campbell  
South Union, Kentucky  
Operating Support

Bowling Green Bicycle Club  
Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Operating Support

Carolyn Moreland  
Franklin, Kentucky  
Land Acquisition

Colonial House Furniture  
Auburn, Kentucky  
Land Acquisition

Atticus Trust  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Operating Support

The Helm Foundation  
Pawleys Island, South Carolina  
Land Acquisition

## *Museum Improvements - Inside & Outside*

When you visit the museum this year you will notice that new signs have been erected around the museum. The weather has taken its toll on many of our entrance signs and new signs were desperately needed to revive a "fresh" look overall.

The Shaker Museum is most fortunate to have the talents of our own restoration and maintenance employee, James Grinter. When you return to the museum, you will probably notice the superior condition of the museum's interior walls, just as the Shakers themselves would have wanted. If it were not for James' plastering and painting skills, the museum walls would quickly fall into disrepair. During the months that the museum is closed for the winter, James helps identify cracks or plaster deterioration and each year makes the necessary repairs before the museum opens to the public.

## *New Museum Hours and Admission for 2001*

Beginning May 1, the museum will extend its operating hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Through the months of March and April, the museum will remain on its present schedule opening daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. We anticipate more visitors this year with the increase in our calendar planning. We have also raised our admission this year by \$1. General admission to the museum effective March 1 will be \$5 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

## *Maple Trees Needed*

In the fall of 1999, the museum began its planting of Maple trees along the old 68/80 corridor between the Ministry Shop area and the historic location of South Union's East Family. This is a wonderful project as an attempt to return South Union to its historic landscape. Trees can be purchased for \$175 in honor of a loved one or in general memoriam. We hope you will purchase a tree this Spring. Please call the museum for information.

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*February 2001*



## Welcome New Members!

Gary & Dianne Howerton  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

J. Richard Coltharp  
Paducah, Kentucky

AR & Bonnie Huffman  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Judge & Mrs. John D. Minton, Jr.  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Cindy Tanner  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Kimberly Cash  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Brenda V. Sternanka  
Franklin, Kentucky

Wayne & Dottie Metcalf  
Gallatin, Tennessee

**"The Shaker Museum is initiating a membership drive and we need your help. We hope you'll speak to others about becoming a member at South Union."**

## Greetings to all the Members and Friends of the Shaker Museum at South Union . . .

Happy 2001! Last year was a very challenging year for the Board of Directors. As you are all aware, we received word mid-year that our long-time Director, Tommy Hines, was moving into a new career. We established a Search Committee consisting of current and former Board Members and initiated a national search for a new Director. I couldn't be more happy in saying that we've found a great one! Jerry Wooten came to us from the River Heritage Museum in Paducah, and he is doing a wonderful job. Tommy Hines has been gracious enough to remain on staff as the part-time Material Culture Specialist. In his position, he will be helping us with the acquisition, care, restoration, and exhibition of South Union "material" artifacts, including Shaker buildings and, of course, furniture. I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors in a more "public" forum for their wisdom and assistance as we dealt with these important staff changes. I also want to thank the staff, particularly Donnalyn Spencer and Saddler Taylor, for their patience, assistance, and faith as we operated on a "shoestring staff" during the search. I feel confident that, with this staff, South Union is poised to grow tremendously.

Please look at the expanded Calendar of Events outlined in this newsletter. There are so many offerings this year, and I hope you'll take every opportunity to visit the South Union site. You certainly don't have to wait for an event to come visit us. There will be new exhibits and new staff to meet.

Finally, Jerry, the staff, and the Board of Directors are initiating a membership drive. We will be making every effort to expand our membership, and we need your help. There is no better marketing tool than for you, a South Union Shaker Museum Member, to approach family and friends to explain to them the significance of the museum and historic site to you and to this region. We hope you'll speak to others about becoming a member at South Union. You've made the commitment; you understand the importance of stewardship for this site, and that's a very persuasive fact when speaking to others about contributing.

*Thank you for your support and interest!*

*Sincerely,  
Skip Cleavinger, President  
Shaker Museum at South Union  
Board of Directors*





## *Restoration Continues at South Union*

As time nears for the 2001 season to begin, restoration plans are already in the works for several South Union buildings. The 1917 Store project is growing closer to completion with only the restoration of original windows and doors to complete. A metal awning, patterned after one that was in place across the facade of the store and visible in the earliest photograph known of the structure (1922), will be installed in the coming weeks. The exterior of the building has taken on an amazing transformation and is beginning to look like it did at the time of the South Union sale in 1922.

The Ministry Shop is on schedule for its restoration in 2001 as well. A preliminary study is almost complete and the actual work should begin in about a month. Manuscript research by former museum staff member Saddler Taylor has revealed a pattern of use by the Shakers from the time of the building's completion in 1847 until the death of Elder Harvey Eads in 1892. The Ministry Shop served as living quarters for the South Union ministry in the winter months when the drafty Meeting House apartments became uninhabitable. Work space was also provided for the Ministry in the building. Elder Harvey Eads set up an office in the downstairs west room for his personal use and occupied the entire 1820 Ministry Shop, just south of the newer buildings, as his private work space. At the time of Eads' death the building was locked and was not used again until after the turn of the century when the Shakers rented it as living quarters.

Recent research on the structure itself has also revealed important information. The familiar color scheme for painted woodwork that exists in the 1824 Centre House, yellow ochre and brick red, is evident in the Ministry Shop as well, according to analysis by early paint expert Susan Buck. Traces of yellow ochre have also been found on the white oak flooring, possibly indicating that the floors were originally painted. This practice is not at all uncommon for the period but this is the first evidence of painted floors found at South Union.

### *From the Past . . .*



### *Legend*

*Local lore claims that the South Union Shakers  
had the first car in Logan County.*

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the 1917 Store  
Building has  
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*"I cannot say enough about how much we value our outstanding corps of volunteers we have at the museum. The volunteers are truly the backbone of our events we host through the year."*

## *The Director's Corner - Jerry Wooten*

What a warm welcome I have received from the wonderful people associated with the Shaker Museum! As your new Executive Director, I see great things about to happen this year and for the future at *your* museum. Going into our 40th year in operation, the Shaker Museum has many challenges for 2001 with exhibit openings, workshops, receptions and special events. Our full Calendar of Events (outlined in this newsletter) has the museum in a full-up swing mode for our exciting upcoming season.

Our Spring line-up is marvelous. Join us on **March 10** for an opening reception of our new exhibit, ***South Union Faces***. A wine and cheese reception from 1-3 p.m. will accompany the opening. Coming **April 20-21** is our annual **South Union Seminar**. This is a two-day event which features a Shaker dinner, tours and professional speakers on the South Union Shakers. This year's focus will be Historic Preservation. We are pleased to have as our keynote and nationally known speaker, Mr. Jim Thomas, Executive Director of the Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. I am really excited about this year's Seminar. Other great events coming in April include our "***Planning Your Herb Garden***" workshop and our second exhibit opening "***Their Cherished Little Hearts***" - ***Children at South Union***. We anticipate a good turn out for both events.

I cannot say enough about how much we value our outstanding corps of volunteers we have at the museum. The volunteers are truly the backbone of our events we host through the year. Without their help, the Shaker Museum could not survive. One of our newest special events for this year is called **Shaker Methods - "Trade with the World's People"**. This event will highlight the variety of textiles, seeds, food, and other goods that were produced and sold to consumer by the South Union Shakers. "Living History" Shakers (authentically costumed volunteers) will be set up at various locations in the 1824 Centre Family dwelling demonstrating how these goods were produced. Join us for this enlightening hands-on event between **10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 12**.

To use the word "excited" would not be enough to describe how I feel about the upcoming year at the Shaker Museum. However, I will say that only with your involvement will these events carry the success that we anticipate. So, as a member of the museum, your participation is important to us. Check your Calendar of Events regularly to be sure not to miss any of this year's events. Earlier, you should have received a membership enlistment form in the mail. If you have not mailed your membership renewal check, it is still not too late. Remember, museum membership will grant you free or discounted admission to all of our events and guarantee that you will keep receiving our quarterly newsletter the ***South Union Messenger***.

On a final note, I encourage you to stay involved at South Union. Our potential growth and new direction has developed much new interest in our mission with things like historic preservation, increased educational programs, scholarship events, and music. With your support, a landmark year at the Shaker Museum will be the result.

*Jerry T. Wooten  
Executive Director  
Shaker Museum at South Union*



## Collections Report

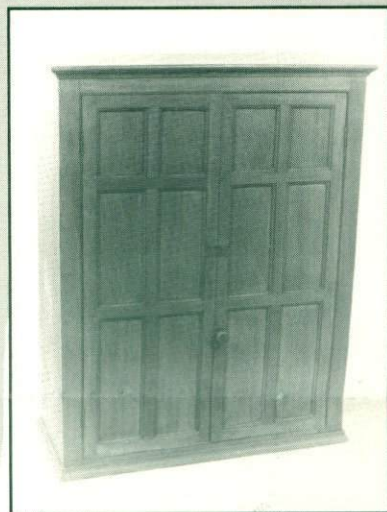
The Shaker Museum at South Union has been very fortunate over the past few years to have located and acquired some of the real treasures of the collection. Wonderful examples of South Union furniture, including bureaus, chairs, beds, and tables, not only add to the accurate interpretation of the site's period room settings, but to the scholarship of southern Shaker material culture. There has been a tremendous amount of information returned with these artifacts, helping the museum to determine how specific characteristics identify an individual piece as "typical" South Union.

This documentation process continues. People who have South Union pieces in their private collections have been very generous to allow the museum to document those pieces by photographing and measuring them. The value of this information makes such research the next best thing to actually owning the artifact. As time goes by, we learn more and more about the Shakers and their material culture at South Union.

The year 2000 was not one of the best for the acquisition of furniture but the museum was able to acquire several important artifacts for the library collection. Between 1870 and 1910 South Union's trustees found it necessary to have printed letterhead for the purposes of business correspondence. Typical of the elaborate Victorian examples of the period, the South Union letterhead illustrates the Shakers' acceptance of "worldly" ornamentation at this point in their history while offering detailed information regarding leadership, products available, and marketing techniques. Four pieces of business correspondence were acquired by the museum from a Nashville, Tennessee collection last year, two of which include examples of rare printed information. Other important paper items have also been accessioned, including early 19th century newspapers with South Union articles and references, important historic photographs of the village, and an 1814 broadside in mint condition, advertising South Union's fulling mill.

The collection continues to grow and I encourage each of you to visit the museum this season and enjoy the new exhibits that will open in 2001.

*Tommy Hines*  
*Material Culture Specialist*



*Just some of  
the wonderful pieces  
of South Union's collection!*



# 2001 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### April 20-21 SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

An annual two-day event focusing on Shaker history. Fee includes Friday evening dinner at the 1869 Shaker Tavern, Saturday continental breakfast and Saturday lunch. This year's theme will be preservation. **Reservations are recommended.** Fee: \$45.00 before April 13, \$55.00 at the door. Time: 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

### May 12 SHAKER METHODS - "TRADE WITH THE WORLD'S PEOPLE"

Come and learn how the Shakers supported their massive economy at South Union. Living history "Shakers" will be available to answer questions and demonstrate "how" the Shakers packaged seeds, food and cloth for sale to "the world's people." Fee: \$6.00, members \$4.00. Time: 10 to 5 p.m. Saturday.

### June 16 AN EVENING AT SOUTH UNION

A gala celebration and annual fundraising event to support preservation of the historic site at South Union. Invitations sent. **Reservations are required.**

### July 14 SHAKER SUMMER NIGHTS

Join us for a celebration of Shaker music with the South Union Shaker Quartet and other musical groups. Enjoy cold watermelon on this Shaker evening as we gaze across South Union's spectacular nightscape around the farm. Fee: \$10.00, \$8.00 members. Time: 7 to 10 p.m.

### August 5 MOTHER ANN DAY

Music and refreshments in the Centre House. The South Union Shaker Quartet will be featured. Fee: Free with paid museum admission Time: 2 to 3 p.m.

### August 18-19 SOUTH UNION CIVIL WAR DAYS

The South Union Civil War Journals are among some of the best. Join us as Civil War living history takes place around the Centre House site. Military drill demonstrations and living history will be going on all day at the museum. Also join us at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday for the new exhibit opening War At Our Front Door: The Civil War at South Union. Fee: \$6.00 adults, \$2.00 children (6-12) Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

### September 8 1875 BARN DANCE

Join us at the Shaker Museum for a stompin' good time! An evening of traditional 19th century dancing, music and refreshments will be the highlight of the evening. Wear your *country best* and join historically costumed dancers as we waltz and reel to period music. Fee: Reserved, \$8.00 per person, \$14.00 per couple before September 1. At the door: \$12.00 per person, \$20.00 per couple. Time: 7 - 10 p.m. **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT RESTORATION OF THE ORIGINAL 1875 SHAKER BARN.**

### October 6 SHAKER FARM FESTIVAL AND DINNER

Step into the 1870s and join us for our Fall harvest celebration. Costumed demonstrators will perform broom making, milking, dyemaking and lard rendering. Children can try apple bobbing and other games. Fee: \$6.00 adults, \$2.00 children 6-12 Time: 9 - 5 p.m. Saturday **Dinner available at the Shaker Tavern, seating time is 6 p.m. For dinner reservations by September 28, please call 270-542-6801 or toll-free 1-800-811-8379.**

### November 10 A SHAKER BREAKFAST

Experience a morning meal like no other with an extensive menu taken from South Union's Civil War journals. **Reservations required.** Fee: \$25.00 each, members \$20.00 Time: Two seatings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m..

### November 30- December 1 "GIFTS FOR THE SEASON" - CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN

One of Kentucky's finest antique and handmade craft shows. Friday evening wine and cheese preview party, 7-9 p.m. (benefits the museum) Fee: \$15.00 per person. **Reservations are required.** Fee: Canned food item for local charity. Time: Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



# 2001 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## EXHIBIT OPENINGS

- March 10 "SOUTH UNION FACES"**  
A new exhibit featuring photographs and short biographical sketches of former South Union members. Original diaries and manuscripts will also be displayed. Fee: Free with paid museum admission. Time: 1 - 3 p.m.
- April 28 "THEIR CHERISHED LITTLE HEARTS": CHILDREN AT SOUTH UNION**  
Current period rooms on the 4th floor of the South Union Centre House drawn from many of the journal entries related to the children here. The exhibit will include many original letters, photographs, and manuscripts. Fee: Free with paid museum admission. Time: 1 - 3 p.m.
- June 2 "THE VICTORIAN SHAKERS": 1869 - 1917**  
A new exhibit featuring research on the little known "Victorian" Shakers. This exhibit will be displayed in the 1869 Shaker Tavern. A smaller exhibit will also be on display at the 1917 Shaker Store, today's South Union Shaker Post Office. Fee: Free with paid museum admission. Time: 1 - 3 p.m.
- August 18 "WAR AT OUR FRONT DOOR" - THE CIVIL WAR AT SOUTH UNION**  
New exhibit featuring original journal entries related to the Shakers feeding the soldiers during the Civil War. Original lithographs, photographs, and manuscripts will be on display. Highlighted will be original textiles and weapons. Fee: Free with paid museum admission. Time: 1 - 3 p.m.
- September 22 "FIELDS OF GOLD": SOUTH UNION AGRICULTURE**  
The staple of South Union's economy depended heavily on agricultural elements. This exhibit will explore the South Union Shaker's agricultural role in Logan County. Fee: Free with paid museum admission. Time: 1 - 3 p.m.

## WORKSHOPS

- April 7 "PLANNING YOUR HERB GARDEN"**  
Learn how the Shakers planned for a summer herb garden. Where to plant annuals and perennials as well as culinary and dye herbs will be discussed. Methods of companion planting and harvesting and preserving herbs to be demonstrated. Information sheets will be handed out. Instructor: Dory Hudspeth, herbalist. Fee: \$12.00, \$8.00 members. Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
- June 23 BROOM MAKING**  
Come spend a day with our broom-maker and make your own Shaker flat broom. Class size limited to 8. Instructor: Dean Watkins. Fee: \$20.00. Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- September 29 HATMAKING**  
Make your own hat during this 19th century hat making workshop demonstrating Shaker style men's hats. The fee is \$75.00. Included is the hat blank, ribbon, hat liner materials and instructions. Class size limited to 8. Instructor: John Ferrol. Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Special group tours for school age children focusing on 19th century Shaker life in Kentucky. **Reservation required.** Fee: \$3.00 per child

*Special thanks to the W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation  
for supporting education programming at the Shaker Museum.*





## SHAKER MUSEUM AT SOUTH UNION

850 Shaker Museum Road  
South Union, Kentucky 42283

Nonprofit Organization  
**US POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
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South Union, KY 42283  
Permit No. 3

Serials Unit  
Helm Cravens Library  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

## *Upcoming Spring Events . . .*

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